

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EB-07

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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FOR ENDERS AND JULIUS KATZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABU DHABI 1379 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DOHA

ALGIERS BAGHDAD CARACAS JAKARTA JIDDA KUWAIT LAGOS TRIPOLI

TEHRAN QUITO LONDON VIENNA

DTD 30 JUN 75

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 1379

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, TC

SUBJ: PETROLEUM-AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE QUALITY PREMIUMS

REF: DOHA 747(NOTAL)

1. IT WAS OUR CLEAR IMPRESSION HERE THAT WHEN ABU DHABI DECIDED CUT SULPHUR AND GRAVITY PREMIUMS EFFECTIVE THE FIRST OF THIS YEAR, THEY DID SO UNILATERALLY. VARIOUS OPEC MEMBERS WERE INFORMED, BUT WE HAD NO INDICATION THAT APPROVAL OR PERMISSION WAS SOUGHT.

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2. WE HAVE NOW CONFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING WITH ABDULLA ISMAIL,

UNDERSECRETARY IN ABU DHABI DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM. ACCORDING TO ISMAIL, OPEC IN 1973 GRANTED ITS MEMBERS AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE QUALITY AND LOCATION PREMIUMS ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS WITH ABU DHABI DECIDING AT THAT TIME ON 70 CENT FIGURE FOR MURBAN. SIMILARLY ABU DHABI WAS ALWAYS FREE TO CHANGE THIS PREMIUM AND DID SO THIS YEAR.

3. ISMAIL STATE, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION NOW CHANGING. HE SAID THAT DURING COURSE OF GABON OPEC MINISTERIAL IT WAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD CONSIDER ISSUE OF PREMIUMS AS THEY APPLY TO GULF

STATES (ISMAIL SAID LIBYA, ALGERIA AND OTHERS NOT INCLUDED HAVING INSISTED FOR SOME TIME THAT THEY WISH MAINTAIN INDIVIDUAL CONTROL OVER THESE PREMIUMS.) ISMAIL SAYS THAT INVITATION RECEIVED FROM IRAN AND IS AWAITING REPLY FROM OTHER PARTICIPANTS. ISMAIL DID NOT SPECULATE ON NATURE OF DECISION WHICH COMMITTEE MIGHT TAKE, BUT DID NOTE THAT IT WOULD BE REPORTING BACK TO OPEC. (EMBASSY NOTES ISMAIL'S VERSION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT CARRIED MEFS 13 JUNE. NOT HAVING SEEN MEES AT TIME OF DISCUSSION WITH ISMAIL, EMBOFF DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY SEEK CLARIFICATION OF DIFFERENCE. IF FURTHER OPPORTUNITY ARISES, WILL SEEK TO DO SO. STERNER UNQUOTE

INGERSOLL

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